

## Item no 4

### **Ballymun Safety Forum Report**

The Safer Ballymun is a partnership between the Community, Dublin City Council, the Ballymun Drugs & Alcohol Task Force and An Garda Síochána. The focus is to engage in collaborative discussions to explore solutions to local safety concerns.

Since the last JPC meeting two public Safer Ballymun Forums have taken place in the Ballymun Civic Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. There was a good attendance of over residents, business agencies and public representatives at the meetings.

Both meetings were opened by DCC with an update on actions taken on matters raised at the previous Safety Forum meeting including:

- nitrous oxide canisters and the process for reporting for removal of the canisters & awareness campaign
- illegal parking at Whiteacre, Balcurris & Gateway Crescent and the actions implemented were discussed
- rodent treatment carried out in Balcurris & Poppintree Parks.

DCC acknowledged the concern from the community in relation to the ongoing issue of dumping & scavenging at clothes banks on Shangan Road. DCC are continuing to monitor the situation and have increased the cleaning schedule at this location. A further update is expected in the coming weeks following a planned meeting with Councillors & Waste Management Services.

An Garda Síochána provided an update on actions taken on matters raised at the last meeting - a number of targeted operations in relation to the illegal use of scramblers in the area have been conducted resulting in the seizure of large number of scramblers in the last 12 months. Patrols have increased in the area.

There is currently a high visibility patrol operation in the Ballymun District in addition to core policing units. This high visibility plan has been expanded to include all the local convenience stores including Poppintree Parade and Shangan Road.

The Gardaí explained the new protocol on how calls are received and logged by An Garda Síochána. The new process requires that the person reporting a crime be transferred to an appropriate call taker in a central call centre who will log and disseminate the call. This is an AGS nationwide policy.

Angie Birch from Star Easy Street Outreach team gave a presentation on the new converted community outreach bus which should be ready for use for the Better Ballymun Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. This bus was funded under the 2023 Community Safety Innovation Fund.

Hugh Greaves from Ballymun Local Drugs & Alcohol Task Force gave a presentation on the awareness and educational programme "Making My Own Choices. This programme is to be delivered to all 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes in Primary Schools from March which will facilitate 180 children this can be increased if required. The BLDATF have met with the Ballymun Principals Network to ensure support for the roll out of this programme, consent will also be required from child's parent/ guardian. This initiatives is also funded under the Community Safety Innovation Fund 2024.

The following were the main issue's discussed at the February meeting;

- Residents discussed increased concern in relation to gangs of youths at Shangan Road shops who are intimidating, engage in open drug dealing and cause ongoing anti-social behaviour at the location daily.
- Anti-social behaviour at the Plaza Apartment complex
- Residents are concerned about safety of private motorcycles in Ballymun.
- Business owners discussed safety concern in relation to poor lighting & condition of footpaths, in St. Margarets Industrial Estate (this Estate is under private ownership).
- Further requests to DCC to remove the Clothes pods at Shangan Road
- Request to inspect the condition of footpath & roadway at Aspen crossing.

Dublin City Council informed residents of their plans to have a launch on the Plaza in May and gave details about planned summer activities. They also provided an update on the Ballymun Local Area Plan active sites.

Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána continue to meet regularly to address concerns raised by the community. The Sillogue Working Group (DCC, BRYR, Easy Street, Cross Care & AGS) also continue to meet to collaborate and implement actions to improve community safety and participation through initiatives, education and awareness.



The main policing issues directly to the Finglas Safety Forum Co-ordinator recently have been:

Cars being vandalised/ break ins in the Scribblestown area.

Reports of open drug dealing at Wellmount Park, Dunnes Stores on Cardiffsbridge Road and behind Barnamore estate.

Ongoing reports raised of open drug dealing and drug paraphernalia occurring at Mellows Park.

Reports of drug dealing occurring at Northway Park.

Shops being vandalised on Mc Kee Avenue, Finglas Village.

The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator position has recently been advertised. Interviews are due to take place the end of February with the hope the position will be filled and public Forum meetings hopefully to take place later in the year. Currently, the position is being covered by way of engaging with relevant stakeholders in relation to safety related concerns.